the dealing officials who deliberately harass the societies ; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to clear the pending applications of societies at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a)

(i) No. of Soieties which applied verification=61.

(ii) No. of Societies of which for list cleared=39.

(b) The Registrar of Coopeative Societies has in timated that the list in regard to 22 societies have not been cleared because they have not furnished complete records.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b). However, any individual complaint can be taken notice of by the Registrar Cooperative Societies for disciplinary action.

(d) Existing procedure is being constantly reviewed to bring about improvements and cut down delays

412. [*Transferred to the 26th July, 1989.*]

**Bonded Labourers in the Country**

413. SHRI JAGADISH JANI Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States where bonded labourers had been identified during the last three years stating the number of bonded labourers identified, State-wise ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for the rehabilitation of those Labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHA KRISHAN MALAVIYA) : (a) A statement prepared on the basis of the information supplied by the State Governments showing the number of bonded labour identified in various States during the years 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 is attached. (*See* below).

(b) The responsibility for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 rests with the State Government concerned. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, the Central Government has, since 1978-79, been operating a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour under which an amount up to a maximum of Rs. 6,250/- is provided for rehabilitation of a bonded labour, half of which is paid by the Central Government as Central share. Another plan scheme for involvement of voluntary agencies in identification and rehabilitation of bonded labour has also been launched on 30th October, 1987.

**Statement**

| Name of the State | Number of bonded labourers identified | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | During 1986-87 | During 1987-88 | During 1988-89 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Andhra Pradesh . . | 1952 | 7214* | Not reported |
| Bihar . . . . | 1100 | 236 | 50 |
| Gujarat . . . . | .. | 2 | .. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Haryana . . . . | . | 134 | 48 |
| Madhya Pradesh . . | 1150 | 1575 | 3409 |
| Maharashtra . . . | 153 | 55 | 343 |
| Orissa . . . . | 3356 | 2047 | 833 |
| Rajasthan . . . | 84 | 117 | 90 |
| Tamilnadu . . . | 48 | 3647 | 1145 |
| Uttar Pradesh . . . | 5519 | 1358 | 944 |
| TOTAL | 13,362 | 16,385 | 6,862 |

*Figures being verified with the State Government.

**Increase in the Prices of Indigenous Newsprint**

M. PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the newspapers are facing acute shortage of newsprint ;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to remove the shortage of newsprint ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the prices of indigenous newsprint have been increased a number of times during the last two years ;

(d) what are the reasons for increase in prices of indigenous newsprint frequently; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that newspapers have complained against the frequent increase in the price of newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) To avoid any shortage, mills have been asked to ensure maximum production and steps have been taken for import of newsprint to bring the gap between indigenous production and consumption. Imported newsprint was released from buffer stock to tide over temporary shortage in the supply of indigenous newsprint.

(c) Indigenous newsprint prices were revised in January/February, 1988 and May/June, 1989.

(d) There has been no frequent increases. Central Goverment do not exercise any statutory control on the prices of news print. The indigenous newsprint mills have reportedly revised their prices upward in May-June, 1989 on account of increase in costs of production and to maintain their financial viability.

(e) Yes, sir.

415. [*Transferred to the 26th July, 1989.*]

**Central Assistance to Karnataka under the Special Foodgrains Production Programme**

416 SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Central assistance given to Karnataka during